

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
American Samoa Department of Public Works
Matuu Stream Flood Management Project
FEMA-1506-DR-AS, HMGP #1506-6


The American Samoa Department of Public Works (ASDPW) has applied, through the American Samoa Disaster Relief Office (ASDRO), to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funds to conduct a flood control project. FEMA is proposing to fund the project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under the presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1506-DR-AS for Cyclone Heta, which occurred in January 2004.

ASDPW has identified the need to reduce the flood hazard caused by the encroachment of Afuelo Stream towards structures in Matuu and by the degradation around the culverts that carry the stream through the village. ASDPW proposes to construct reinforced concrete floodwalls and gabion mats along approximately 520 feet of the stream. The walls and mats would be installed at eight discrete locations along the stream, near the bends. The lengths of the wall sections from Site 1 (upstream) to Site 8 (downstream near Avelina Grocery Store) would be 65, 50, 50, 25, 25, 25, 230, and 50 linear feet, respectively. At each location, the floodwalls would be constructed along the embankment on both sides of the stream. Two gabion mats, each with a thickness of 1 foot, would cover the width of the streambed between the floodwalls. Also, wingwalls would be constructed on two of the three existing concrete culverts along the stream in the village. The construction would require excavation within the streambed. Staging areas would be located within paved and other previously disturbed areas near the project area. The project would involve the removal of some vegetation along the stream's embankments. Construction would occur during the seasonally dry months (March through October) and would be completed within 90 days.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Matuu Stream Flood Management Project (July 2006) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The Final EA was prepared after a Draft EA was submitted for public review and comment. FEMA received no comments on the Draft EA. The Final EA is available online at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the Final EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027.

 07/19/2006

Alessandro Amaglio Date
Region IX Environmental Officer